Differences Between UCR and LIBRS 2.5

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system has been in use since 1929, pre-dating electronic reporting of criminal justice data and, consequently, is designed primarily for a pencil and paper world. LIBRS (Louisiana Incident-Based Reporting System), on the other hand, is designed to use computer networks to collect detailed crime data in compliance with the FBI's NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System).

UCR

A major difference between LIBRS and the traditional UCR system is the degree of detail in reporting crime data. With UCR, law enforcement agencies tally the number of occurrences of Part I offenses, as well as arrest data for both Part I and Part II offenses, and submit aggregate counts of the collected data in monthly summary reports either directly to the FBI or indirectly through the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE). The traditional UCR Program can thus be best described as a *summary reporting system*. The types of data tallied include counts of:

- Offenses
- Clearances
- Types and Values of Stolen and Recovered Property
- Age, Sex, and Race of Arrestees.

Expanded data are also be collected on Homicides (i.e., Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter, Manslaughter by Negligence, and Justifiable Homicide) through the use of Supplementary Homicide Reports. Furthermore, there are no requirements to tie arrests and exceptional clearances back to previously submitted incident reports.

LIBRS

In LIBRS, law enforcement agencies collect detailed data regarding individual crime incidents and arrests and submit them in separate reports using prescribed data elements and data values to describe each incident and arrest. Therefore, LIBRS is *incident-based reporting*, involving the collection of 70 data elements used to describe the victims, offenders, arrestees, and circumstances of crimes.

In LIBRS (as well as the FBI NIBRS system) there are two types of data elements, *mandatory* and *optional*. Data MUST be entered into mandatory data elements in reports submitted to LIBRS (and ultimately NIBRS), or the reports will be rejected as containing an error. (For example, a number must be entered into Data Element 2 (Incident Number)). Whether data are entered into optional data elements is up to the discretion of the submitting agency, so the absence of data in them will not cause rejections. (For example, no entry is required for Data Element 29 (Ethnicity of Victim)).

	UCR	LIBRS
Year Established	1929	2003*
Type of Reporting	Summary Report by Jurisdiction	Detailed Reports of Individual Incidents and Arrests in Jurisdiction
Type of Offense Codes	UCR Only	UCR *and* Louisiana Revised Statutes (LRS)
Number of Offenses	8** Part 1 Offenses	46*** Group A Offenses in 22 Categories
Types of Data Collected	Summary Counts of Offenses, Clearances, Type and Values of Stolen and Recovered Property; and, Age, Sex and Race of Arrestees	Detailed Data Describing All Aspects of Individual Crime Incidents and Arrests
Distinguish Between *Attempted* and *Completed* Crimes	No	Yes
Reports *Crimes Against Society*	No	Yes
Tie Arrests and Exceptional Clearances Back to Previously Submitted Reports	No	Yes
Criminal Justice Database Structure	*Not Applicable*	17 Segments, 70 Data Elements
Use "Hierarchy Rule" for Reporting Offenses	Yes, Less Serious Offenses Are Not Reported (Except for Arson, Which is Always Reported)	No, All Offenses are Reported
Ability to Correlate Data	Limited (For Example, Only in Homicides can Age, Sex and Race of Offenders be Correlated with Age, Sex and Race of Their Victims)	Robust (Linkages Exist to Connect Offenses, Property, Victims, Offenders and Arrestees within an Incident)
Victim-to-Offender Relationship Data	Limited (Victim's Relationship to Offender is Reported ONLY for Homicides	Yes, (Victim's Relationship to Offender is Reported for ALL *Crimes Against Person* and Robbery)
Circumstance Reporting	Homicides ONLY	ALL Aggravated Assaults, as well as Homicides
Details on Drug Offenses	No	Yes
Accounts for Computer Crime	No	Yes

* LIBRS Certified as NIBRS-Compliant by FBI.

** (1) Murder and Non-Negligent Homicide, (2) Rape, (3) Robbery, (4) Aggravated Assault, (5) Burglary,
(6) Motor Vehicle Theft, (7) Larceny-Theft, and (8) Arson

*** (1) Arson, (2) Aggravated Assault, (3) Simple Assault, (4) Intimidation, (5) Bribery, (6) Burglary/Breaking & Entering, (7) Counterfeiting/Forgery, (8) Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, (9) Drug/Narcotic Violations,
(10) Drug Equipment Violations, (11) Embezzlement, (12) Extortion/Blackmail, (13) False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game, (14) Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud, (15) Impersonation, (16) Welfare Fraud,
(17) Wire Fraud, (18) Betting/Wagering, (19) Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling, (20) Gambling Equipment Violations, (21) Sports Tampering, (22) Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter, (23) Negligent
Manslaughter, (24) Justifiable Homicide, (25) Kidnapping/Abduction, (26) Pocket-Picking, (27) Purse-Snatching, (28) Shoplifting, (29) Theft from Building, (30) Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device, (31) Theft from
Motor Vehicle, (32) Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories, (33) All Other Larceny, (34) Motor Vehicle Theft, (35) Pornography/Obscene Material, (36) Prostitution, (37) Assisting or Promoting Prostitution,
(38) Robbery, (39) Forcible Rape, (40) Forcible Sodomy, (41) Sexual Assault With An Object, (42) Forcible Fondling, (43) Incest, (44) Statutory Rape, (45) Stolen Property Offenses, (46) Weapon Law Violations.

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